

## THE AMENDMENTS

## In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 18, lines 1-6 with the following paragraph.

Percent amino acid sequence identity may also be determined using the sequence comparison program NCBI-BLAST2 (Altschul et al., <u>Nucleic Acids Res.</u> 25:3389-3402 (1997)). The NCBI-BLAST2 sequence comparison program may be downloaded from <a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov</a> or otherwise obtained from the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD. NCBI-BLAST2 uses several search parameters, wherein all of those search parameters are set to default values including, for example, unmask = yes, strand = all, expected occurrences = 10, minimum low complexity length = 15/5, multi-pass e-value = 0.01, constant for multi-pass = 25, dropoff for final gapped alignment = 25 and scoring matrix = BLOSUM62.